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Attorney Docket No. 57132 (46342)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANTS     Watanabe, et al                      EXAMINER:     Ruixiang Li  
U.S.S.N.:        10/070,241                      ART UNIT:       1646  
FILED:           February 27, 2002                      CONF. NO.      2935  
FOR:              NOVEL G PROTEIN-COUPLED PROTEIN AND DNA THEREOF

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

.....  
**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service, in an envelope with sufficient postage as first class mail addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 11, 2003.

By: Helen Murray Tarbi

Helen Murray Tarbi

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**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

This paper is responsive to the Restriction Requirement mailed July 29, 2003.

**THE RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

The Examiner has restricted the claims into four groups:

Group I including claims 1-7, 9, 11 and 14 drawn to a protein comprising SEQ ID NO: 1, a method of producing the protein, and a method of determining a ligand to the protein.

Group II including claim 8 drawn to an antibody.

Group III including claim 10 drawn to a method of screening a compound that alters the binding property between a ligand and protein.

Group IV including claims 12 and 13 drawn to a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound that alters the binding property between a ligand and the protein.

The Examiner asserts that the groups are not so technically linked so as to form single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

### **RESPONSE**

Applicants hereby elect Group I, which presently includes claims 1-7, 9, 11 and 14, with traverse. The election is made solely to comply with the Office Action and should not be construed as a surrender of any subject matter in the application. The right to file divisional applications on the non-elected claims is reserved.

### **CONCLUSION**

Applicants submit that all claims are allowable as written and respectfully request early favorable action by the Examiner. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with Applicants' attorney would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned attorney of record.

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Response to Restriction Requirement

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Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 26, 2003

By: Dianne Rees

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